



the Quail

Mount Diablo Audubon Society
P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053
www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php

Volume 51, Number 3

November 2005

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Allen Fish

Anyone who has visited Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands during the raptor migration months of August through December has a feeling for the passion that has molded the career of Allen Fish. In 1985 Allen Fish, a young biologist, was hired by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to coordinate hawk banding in the Marin Headlands. He worked on the hill with National Park Service biologist, Judd Howell, one counting raptors, the other banding. As a team, they envisioned joining the operations into a raptor observatory, manned by volunteers. With funding from the GGNRA and support from the National Park Service, the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) was formed, with Allen Fish as Director. Currently with three staff members and more than 300 community volunteers, GGRO has, since its inception, tracked the fall migration of tens of thousands of hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures.



Hawk's-eye view of Hawk Hill and the Marin headlands

Join us on November 3 as Allen Fish shares his experiences as director of the preeminent hawk watch in California. He will answer such questions as 'Why are they here?', 'Where do they go?', and 'How are they doing?' The unique geography of Marin County, which lies between two bodies of water, funnels their flight right over Hawk Hill. The hawk count gathers data on daily and seasonal migration patterns and facilitates monitoring changes in species numbers over the long-term.

As of 2003, Mr. Fish and his staff of volunteers have banded more than 20,000 raptors with a small numbered leg band. When a bird with a band is found, it

provides important data such as where a raptor has traveled and how it might have been injured or died. Radiotelemetry techniques allow a bird to be followed for up to two months and provide documentation on daily patterns and behaviors. Mr. Fish will describe banding techniques and radio tracking.

There is a special thrill to a visit to Hawk Hill. The skills of the volunteer hawk watchers are extraordinary. The access to raptors is nowhere as close as it is on this special hill. One is undeniably affected by a visit. Join us on November 3 for a visit with the person who knows it best, GGRO Director, Allen Fish.

By Alice Holmes

Meeting Schedule

The next general meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be **Thursday, November 3**, in the Camellia Room of The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek (see map on page 9).

6:30 PM Doors open

7:00 PM Birding Information

7:25 PM Announcements

7:40 PM Social time, refreshments*, door prize

8:05 PM Program

* Please remember to bring a cup.

Birding Information

Gary Lawrence, a member of Mount Diablo Audubon Society, will share his passion for bees. As Vice President in charge of education for the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association he devotes a great deal of time to school visitations. This evening we will observe his active demonstration beehive as Gary discusses life in the colony, beekeeping equipment, and reasons for the decline in the bee population. There may even be a taste of honey. Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association website is www.diablobees.org.



Welcome New Members

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Lisa Andrews | San Ramon |
| Barbara Belisle | Moraga |
| Jim Blickenstaff | San Ramon |
| Donna & David Caldwell | Rohnert Park |
| Lynda Conlow | Concord |
| Ann Fine | Concord |
| Jessica Geslien | Martinez |
| Vicky Halliday | Pleasant Hill |
| Eric & Debbie Hinzel | Clayton |
| Gary & Cathy Hook | Pleasant Hill |
| Mary Anna Jansen | Brentwood |
| Elizabeth Kelker | Orinda |
| Michael & Tammy Mallett | Oakley |
| Bill & Cheryl Marsh | Pleasant Hill |
| Rick & Laurel Oglesby | Pleasant Hill |
| Virginia Palmer | Pleasant Hill |
| Al Schaal | Martinez |
| Jody Sherrard | Martinez |
| Marlene Thompson | Martinez |
| Carol Tretten | Walnut Creek |
| Kathy Wolf | Orinda |
| S R Wright | Concord |

A special word of thanks is due to Wild Birds Unlimited for their gift of 20 pounds of seed to all who joined MDAS on Saturday, October 8.

Painless MDAS Fund Raisers!

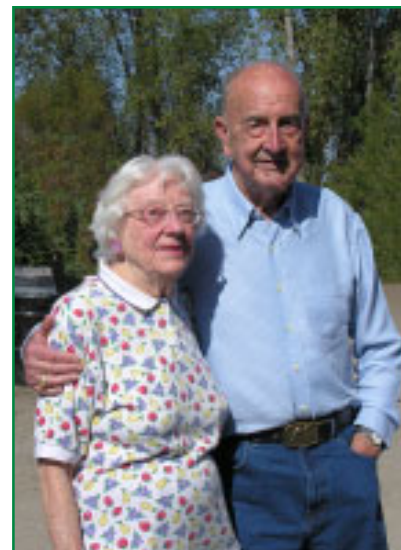
Don't forget that when you recycle your used HP and Lexmark inkjet printer cartridges by bringing them to the general meetings or dropping them off at Wild Birds Unlimited, MDAS will earn \$2.50 for each. We will also accept cell phones, pagers & PDAs. Place them in a sealed plastic bag. No refilled cartridges, please. 2006 Entertainment Books are a great value at only \$25! Save 50% on travel, restaurants, entertainment, retail and much more. They make welcome gifts for your friends. They are available at the monthly MDAS meetings, and also at Wild Birds Unlimited, 692 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Not only will your budget benefit from your purchase of this coupon book, but Mount Diablo Audubon will also profit.

Check-lists of Northern California Birds, in the new taxonomy, are available at the MDAS meetings, for just 25 cents each.

Gray Lodge Hides Dedicated to Betty and Harry Adamson

As the ceremony of ribbon-cutting to officially open the Adamson hides was getting under way, a skein of White-fronted Geese appeared overhead to take part in the festivities. Harry Adamson declared that this was an auspicious sign of a new era for wildfowl aficionados, whether they be painters, photographers, birders, or schoolchildren on a field trip.

Harry Adamson, one of the original founders of Mount Diablo Audubon Society, and his wife Betty, former *Quail* editor and diligent factotum for the Society, were honored for their many years of service to wildlife conservation. It was on October 8, significantly also their 61st wedding anniversary, and it was a glorious day at Gray Lodge.



Harry Adamson has been known as the foremost painter of wildfowl on the wing. Each of the two new hides feature a pair of his prints. The twin buildings have openable windows, two of which are at a level appropriate for wheel-chair users. Birds will be coming. You should go.



Clockwise from upper left:

Guests enjoyed a hayride from the refuge entrance to the site of the hides.

The hide dedicated to Harry Adamson.

The view from Betty Adamson's hide, looking across to the Sutter Buttes.

Claude Grillo, representing California Waterfowl Association, makes the introduction, as Betty waits with Harry to cut the ribbon.

Q

A number of birds, such as Cooper's Hawk, prey on other birds. This bird does, too, on occasion, and one was observed to leap up from an arroyo and take a low-flying White-throated Swift.

Unscramble these letters, or turn to page 4 for the answer.

AADEEEGNORRRRTU

Field Trip Schedule

By Elizabeth Dickey

Field Trip Reports

November

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 2 Wednesday | S. F. Bay Refuge |
| 5 Saturday | Palo Alto |
| 10 Thursday | Heather Farm |
| 16 Wednesday | Mt. View Sanitary |
| 19 Saturday | Limantour |
| 30 Wednesday | Lake Merritt |

December

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 3 Saturday | Benicia State Park |
| 8 Thursday | Twin Lakes |
| 14 Wednesday | Alameda Creek |

Field trips are open to members and non-members, beginners and masters. Weather or other contingencies may require changes. For updates, read the *Quail*, visit the MDAS website at www.diabloaudubon.com/index/php, or call the Audubon taped recording at (925) 283-8266. Customary carpool expense is 37½ cents per mile, plus tolls and entry fees, shared among driver and riders. Category 1: Easy, little or no walking, smooth paths; Category 2: Moderate, one mile or more, possibly rough terrain; Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking on rough terrain.

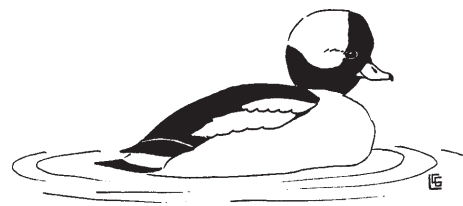
November Field Trips

Wednesday, November 2. **Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** Carpool leaves at 8 AM from LaGonda Way in Danville. From I-680 southbound, exit on El Pintado, turn right, and right again onto LaGonda. From I-680 northbound, exit at El Cerro Blvd., Danville, turn left, then right on LaGonda, and drive about ¼ mile north to El Pintado. Meet at 9 AM at parking lot at refuge entrance. From SR 92 take Thornton Ave. south and turn right into refuge; park below the Visitors Center. We will bird the marshes east of the entrance road first. Mostly levee walking. Bring lunch. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486. Category 2.

Saturday, November 5. **Palo Alto.** Carpool leaves at 8 AM from LaGonda Way in Danville. Meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot near the Nature Center. From US 101 take Embarcadero east to the end. With a high tide, we hope for rails. Levees may be muddy. Bring lunch. Call Elizabeth Dickey for further information, 254-0486. Category 1.

Thursday, November 10. **Heather Farm.** Meet at 8 am in the parking area off San Carlos Avenue near the duck ponds. Call Elizabeth Dickey for further information, 254-0486. Category 2.

Wednesday, November 16. **Mountain View Sanitary District.** Meet at 9 AM at the plant's parking lot. Take Pacheco Blvd. exit from I-680, turn right onto Arthur Road and go under the freeway. Arthur Road turns left, then right; at the second turn, turn sharp left onto a non-



county-maintained road. Follow the road into the sanitary plant. Trails may be muddy. Close-up looks at dabbling ducks; possibly bitterns and heron. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Saturday, November 19. **Limantour.** Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Or meet at 9:00 AM at the Bear Valley Visitors Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. From SR 1 in Olema, turn left on Bear Valley Road and left into Visitors Center. We expect shorebirds, waterfowl, and land birds on the ridge. Trails may be muddy. Call Elizabeth Dickey for further information, 254-0486. Category 2.

Wednesday, November 30. **Lake Merritt.** Carpool leaves at 8 AM from Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Road just north of SR 24. Meet at 8:30 AM at parking lot between the Boat House and the abandoned aviary at Lake Merritt. Go west on Hwy. 24 which becomes I-980. Take 29th Street exit; go straight through light at 27th Street and continue on Northgate Ave. to end at W. Grand Ave. Go left on Grand to park entrance by Children's Fairyland. Ducks, grebes, herons. Lake Merritt is most reliable place for Barrow's Goldeneye. Call Elizabeth Dickey for further information, 254-0486.

September 10, Hawk Hill. "Fog and unseasonably cold" was the weather forecast—and they couldn't have been more wrong, but they may have discouraged the birders, for the leader had no followers on a brilliantly clear, warm, sunny morning at Rodeo Lagoon. Nothing daunted, he enjoyed the dozens (no exaggeration) of Yellow and Wilson's Warblers flitting around the bushes, also families of cooperative Marsh Wrens and Wrentits, plus Yellowthroat, Red-necked Phalarope, Lincoln's Sparrow, and much more. Atop Hawk Hill the weather was just as perfect for observing several Ospreys heading south, plus a few other raptors. I saw 31 species during the outing.

Fred Safier

September 24, Moss Landing. Five birders enjoyed a beautiful day of birding. We found three species of cormorants and awesomely large numbers of Heermann's Gulls. Our specialty birds included a Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-necked Phalarope, and Pectoral Sandpipers. We had a total of 69 species.

Joel Summerhill

October 1, Point Reyes. Six birders met at Drakes Beach on a foggy, damp morning to look for fall migrants and returning winter birds. Hopes for a productive day were high as our first bird in the willows was a Chestnut-sided Warbler! It was joined by Yellow, Wilson's and several Yellow-rumped Warblers. Soon a Hermit Thrush was giving its "chuck-chuck" call, as a Fox Sparrow was seen working the willow edge "towhee-fashion." Alas, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, found in the willows on a scouting trip a week earlier, was nowhere to be seen, or heard. The resident Barn Owls flushed and afforded us great daytime views. The pond produced a Virginia Rail and several early duck species, including Gadwall and American Wigeon along with an Eared Grebe. Marsh Wrens and a pair of Common Yellowthroats responded nicely to "pishing" as did an Orange-crowned Warbler. At the "Abandoned Ranch" the group was treated to nice views of Great-horned Owls peering down on us from only twenty feet overhead. Scope-views brought the owl in "up close and per-

Continued on page 4

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED



In the Backyard

- The Dark-eyed Juncos are arriving. Mainly we see the "Oregon" sub-species with their dark hood. Sometimes it's possible to find a "Slate-colored" Junco with its dark body and white belly. Look for the white outer tail feathers on both of these when in flight.

- The Golden-crowned Sparrows have arrived. Their plaintive, whistled three-note song ("oh-dear-me") can be heard all day long, but especially early in the morning. White-crowned Sparrows have also migrated in for the winter. They often flock with the Golden-crowned Sparrows. Both are ground or tray feeding birds and love white millet seed. They also will eat suet.

- American Goldfinches should begin appearing in larger numbers, often accompanied by Lesser Goldfinches. Their numbers will continue increasing all through the winter. By January or February many people see flocks of up to 50. They can also be seen eating wild thistle seeds and on liquidamber and birch trees. Both will readily come to thistle seed feeders. Last winter we saw a large influx of Pine Siskins and they seem to drive off many goldfinches. It will be interesting to see if they come back this winter.

Suet feeding is also entertaining at this time of year. In addition to the regular cast of visitors (chickadees, titmice, jays, woodpeckers, etc.), Bewick's Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets also love suet.

We have been receiving reports of Fox Sparrows in local backyards. Keep your eyes open for them!

Continuing Birding Class

with Denise Wight of MDAS

Great fun and very educational! Starts Nov. 2, 7-9 pm for 6 Wednesday nights. There are also 2 weekend birdwalks. Class meets at Wild Birds Unlimited. Cost \$60.00. Call for more information.

Mike & Cecil Williams
Wild Birds Unlimited
692 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-798-0303

Visit us at www.wbupleasanthill.com



Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*

Known to many for its feud with Wyle E. Coyote, the Roadrunner is surely a cuckoo bird, and it really is a Cuckoo bird, joining the Yellow-billed Cuckoo as the only members of the *Cuculidae* (Cuckoo) family that might be found in California. Cornell Lab of Ornithology describes its call as *co-coo-coo-coo-coo000*. Cuckoo indeed.

A fleet predator, it captures not only fast-running lizards, rodents, and small

Trip Reports

Continued from page 3

sonal" to reveal the fine details of its facial feathers. Several pairs of Western Bluebirds worked an old fence line in search of insects, while a Downy Woodpecker did the same in a large oak tree. Next we walked the cypress-lined entry road to the old RCA radar station. Song, Savannah, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows moved along with us, while a Northern Harrier coursed its way across an open field. During our lunch break, an Osprey circled directly over us before landing in a nearby tree. Early afternoon found us at the lighthouse, with the coastline fully shrouded in fog, with few birds to be seen. At Nunez Ranch, we worked through a large flock of Tricolored Blackbirds in hopes of finding a Bobolink, as one was reported the previous week. No luck this time. Back at Drake's Bay we added Western and Clark's Grebes, Common Loons, Brown Pelican, and four Common Murres. We had a terrific day, and tallied 64 species.

Terry Colborn, Davis, CA

phological attributes that give Roadrunners their great speed: their extra-long tail for balance and rudder, and that they have two toes facing forward, and two backward (zygodactyl)—their tracks in loose dirt are a series of Xs. They can reach speeds of 15 miles per hour; they fly only when necessary.

Roadrunners are considered very rare in Contra Costa County, but they are occasionally reported near Mount Diablo. They prefer the habitats of the Southwest and Mexico; the bird shown here was photographed near the Salton Sea.

Bobelaine

Continued from page 8

October), and you might discover river otters and Wood Ducks. There is habitat for many species of wildlife: ringtail, deer, coyote, fox, wild turkey, California Quail, muskrats, raccoons, skunks and numerous other critters. A large number of song birds as well as egrets, Green Herons, a variety of hawks, Osprey and Great Blue Herons can be found.

In 1992, a large fire swept through the preserve. Since that time, the endangered Yellow-billed Cuckoo has not been seen regularly on the sanctuary. It is estimated that fewer than 50 pairs breed within the state, and it is hoped that this species will eventually be enticed back to this ancestral area. The threatened Swainson's Hawk has been nesting on the sanctuary during recent years.

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary is an ideal spot for all birders, artists, nature photographers, and others to enjoy wildlife and nature to its fullest. It is open, without charge, from sunrise to sunset, every day.

Keep Our Open Spaces Open! By Nancy Wenninger

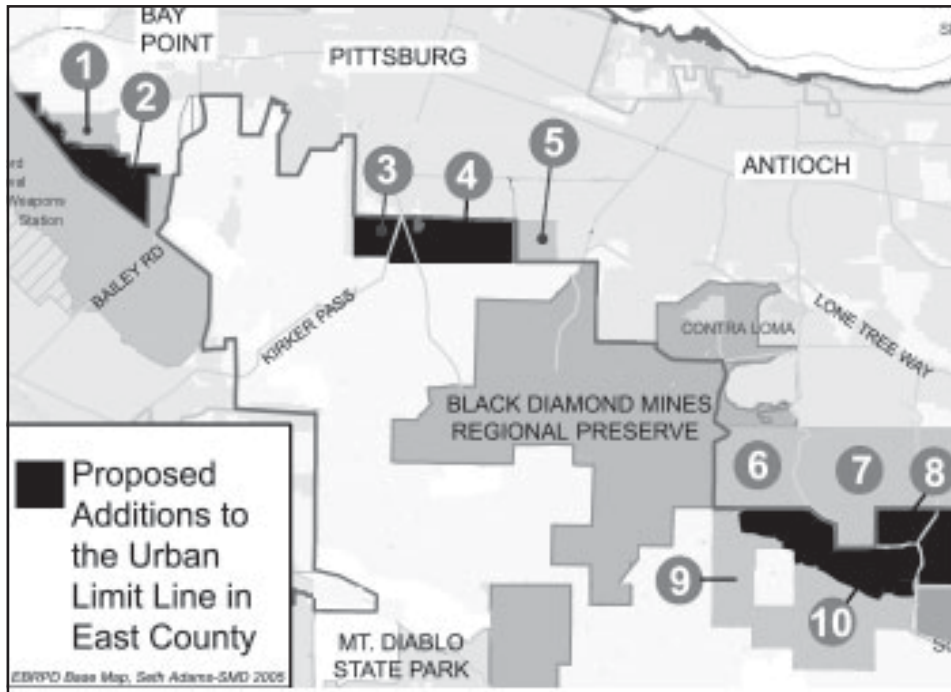
On November 8, voters in three Contra Costa cities—Pittsburg, Antioch and Brentwood—will help to determine their communities’ future quality of life. Initiatives sponsored by developers, such as Albert Seeno and the Castle Company, propose to expand development into open space areas now protected by the County’s Urban Limit Line (ULL).

Mt. Diablo Audubon’s Board of Directors recommends a NO vote on Measure K in Antioch and NO on Measure P in Pittsburg.

Last November more than 70% of the county’s voters approved Measure J, the renewal of a half-cent transportation sales tax for 25 more years. Measure J will provide funding for key transportation projects such as the widening of Route 4. In order for local communities to receive funding from the measure, a voter-approved urban growth boundary must be in place. The county plans to bring proposed changes in the ULL to the voters for approval next year, but the developers have launched a pre-emptive strike by placing their own initiatives on the November 8 ballot.

These measures claim to be about local control, but they are about *developer control*. They make false promises of “open space protection” and “enhanced quality of life.”

- Antioch’s Measure K will move the city’s boundaries to include the Roddy Ranch and adjacent open space and make 1,000 acres available for residential development. The Castle Company plans to carve up Roddy Ranch for 700 “McMansions.” Development in these areas threatens Horse Valley and Deer Valley wildlife corridors.



Developers are proposing Urban Limit Line expansions and thousands of new houses on working ranches around Pittsburg and Antioch:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Seeno’s San Marco Meadiows | 6. Higgins Ranch |
| 2. Seeno’s Faria on the Concord ridge line | 7. FUA#1 |
| 3. Seeno’s Montreaux | 8. Ginochio |
| 4. Thomas Ranch | 9. Roddy Ranch Deer Valley |
| 5. Seeno’s Sky Ranch II | 10. Roddy Ranch Horse Valley |

- Pittsburg’s Measure P will prezone more than 1,700 acres currently outside Pittsburg’s city limits and make them available for Mr. Seeno’s brand of hillside development. Look south from Highway 4 at the massive hillside grading underway for his San Marco subdivision. Imagine more of the same on the ridgeline above the Concord Naval Weapon Station and the hills surrounding Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve!

- These measures are all about the huge profits these developers will realize if

they are successful in changing the ULL. Their new construction will add to thousands of new homes already in the pipeline, adding to residents’ traffic woes and negatively impacting their quality of life.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society joins with other opponents to these initiatives, including State Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, County Supervisor Federal Glover, Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance and Save Mount Diablo. We hope that East County residents will say NO to this end run by the developers!

McNabney Marsh Update

Reintroduction of water into the marsh was scheduled to begin October 1. However, rescheduling is now “before November 1.” The drawdown this summer was done to create dry conditions for drain ditch excavations. Somehow permits got stalled in some agency and the go-ahead did not arrive in time to start and complete the project. The next draw-

down and ditching is to start June 15, when the nesting season is over for 2006. The fall waterfowl migration is a bit late this year so hopefully the current lack of water will not be too big of a problem.

One other note, not affecting marsh operations, is that Chevron is requesting permission to place a pipeline along the southern and southwest corner of the

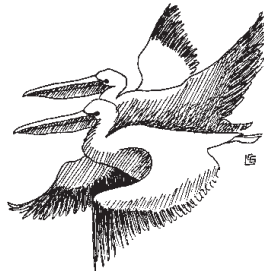
marsh area, along the fence line. This matter is under negotiation between Chevron and the East Bay Regional Park District., who owns this portion of the marsh property. Hopefully the negotiations will produce enough mitigation money to enlarge the outflow culverts at the north end of the marsh. Our own Nancy Wenninger has her boxing gloves on, representing the park district. Good luck Nancy. *Bob Wisecarver*

October Observations _____ By Steve Glover

American White Pelicans at unusual spots included four at Upper San Leandro Reservoir near Moraga on 10/3 (JC, BG) and nine on the duck pond at Miller Knox Regional Shoreline at Point Richmond on 10/12 (SG). An additional four birds flew northeast over Miller Knox on that same morning.

Two immature Broad-winged Hawks were noted over Inspiration Point in Tilden Park on 10/1 (SG). It seems likely, based upon the number of birds detected in the Marin Headlands each autumn, that perhaps dozens of Broad-wings pass undetected over Contra Costa airspace each year.

A flurry of Lewis's Woodpecker sightings was submitted this fall. Three were at Black Diamond Mines Regional Park near Antioch on 9/19 (JH); one was noted flying south over Inspiration Point in Tilden Park on 10/1; and an unspecified amount (but enough that "the sky seemed full of them") were at Los Vaqueros Reservoir west of Brentwood on 10/10 (Cheryl ?). There have been many sightings of fall migrants from Tilden Park in recent years. The Los Vaqueros area, however, is the most likely place to find "chaseable" wintering birds.



A male Red-naped Sapsucker was found on 10/1 at Upper San Leandro Reservoir near Moraga (DW). It was refound on 10/3 at the original spot (JC, BG). This Great Basin sapsucker is found nearly annually in the county, often in ornamental plantings in suburban areas, and probably occurs far more often than is detected.

A Winter Wren at Miller Knox Regional Shoreline at Point Richmond on 10/12 was either a rare migrant or a bird settled in for the winter, as they have done at that location in the past (SG).

An American Redstart was a welcome sight at Jewel Lake in Tilden Regional Park on 10/2 (BB). "Vagrant" warblers have been found at this site with some regularity over the years, particularly in fall, with numerous records of redstarts.

Bob Brandriff, Judi Cooper, Bingham Gibbs, Steve Glover, Joel Herr

Christmas Count

Each year since 1900 birders have counted birds at the Christmas season, sustaining an invaluable ornithological database of resident and migratory bird populations. You are invited to take part in this event as MDAS will conduct two separate counts, on Sunday, December 17, and Wednesday, December 21. Rain will not stay our dedicated birders from their appointed rounds.

Every pair of eyes is helpful in this endeavor—you do not need to be an expert bird watcher. Just bring your binoculars and a sense of camaraderie and fun. You may opt for either or both days. Feeder-watchers are encouraged, as well, especially if you anticipate having an unusual species in your yard.

Sign up by completing the form below, or you may call Jimm Edgar at (510) 658-2330. A charge of \$5 helps to pay for publication of the CBC edition of *American Birds*.

Do you have your MDAS logo cap to wear on the Christmas Count? They'll be available at the November meeting.

Details of the wrap-up dinners following the counts will be included in the next issue of the *Quail*.

Ornithology Opportunities

Muir Heritage Land Trust. Pacheco Marsh and Waterbird Regional Preserve, November 5. Birding hike led by Nancy Wenninger, Land Acquisition Manager, East Bay Regional Park District. These wetlands are great bird watching areas. Learn about the Land Trust's promising restoration project at Pacheco Marsh as you explore its shoreline. Take 680 to the Marina Vista exit. Go east on Waterfront Road and turn right on Waterbird Way into the Waterbird Preserve parking lot. Please arrive a little before 9 AM to ensure a prompt start. Call (925) 228-5460 for reservation.

www.muirheritagelandtrust.org.

Ninth Annual Sandhill Crane Festival. November 5–6, Lodi. Field trips and delta cruises; presentations on owls, eagles, dragonflies; wildlife photography techniques; children's activities. www.lodichamber.com/cranefestival.asp.

The 2005–2006 Project FeederWatch Season begins November 12. Sign up now at www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/. This is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and other locales in North America. FeederWatch helps scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Central Valley Birding Symposium. November 17–20, Stockton. www.cvbs.org. The ninth annual symposium includes a keynote program "Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker" by Bobby Harrison and John Trochet, two of the observers who have confirmed this remarkable species recovery. Other leaders include Joe Morlan, Don Roberson, and Jules Evens. Field trips to limited access locations. Workshops and art show. Information: (209) 369-2010, hummer52@lodinet.com.

MDAS Christmas Count —2005

- I volunteer for the Central County Christmas Bird Count on December 17.
- I volunteer for the East County Christmas Bird Count on December 21.
- I volunteer for BOTH Christmas Bird Counts, December 17 and 21.
- Put me wherever you need the help.
- I would prefer a hiking area.
- I would prefer a less strenuous area.
- I will monitor a feeder or garden.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Years of birding experience: _____

Make \$5 check payable to MDAS.

Mail to: Jimm Edgar

4614 Jacobus Ave., Oakland, CA 94618.

MDAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

____ Please enroll my family and me as a member of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society for \$25 for one year.

____ Please enroll me as a lifetime member for \$500. Payment can be made in two annual payments of \$250 each.

____ Please enroll the individual/family listed below as a gift membership for \$25 for one year.

____ For an additional \$20 (new NAS members only) or \$35 (returning members), please enroll me in the National Audubon Society to receive four quarterly issues of the *Audubon Magazine*.

____ I'm enclosing an additional donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Card Number: _____

____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail with this application to:
Membership Chair, 400 Oneida Court, Danville, CA 94526

the Quail

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Mount Diablo Audubon Society general meetings are on the first Thursday of every month except July and August in the Camellia Room of the Garden Center at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Board of Directors meets at 7 PM on the second Thursday of every month in the conference room of Wild Birds Unlimited, 692 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Questions about membership or mailing addresses? Call Ann McGregor, Membership Chair, at (925) 968-1677. MDAS membership includes 10 issues of the Quail. A 1-year family membership in MDAS is \$25/year or \$500 for lifetime membership (payable in two \$250 annual payments). National Audubon Society membership includes the Audubon magazine. Introductory 1-year membership is \$20 or \$30 for 2 years; membership renewal is \$35/year. To join MDAS or NAS, send a check payable to MDAS to Ann McGregor, Membership Chair, 400 Oneida Ct., Danville, 94526. SEND ADDRESS CHANGES for both NAS and MDAS to P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053. Please send exchange bulletins for MDAS to the editor, 215 Calle La Mesa, Moraga, CA 94556.

MDAS Board of Directors

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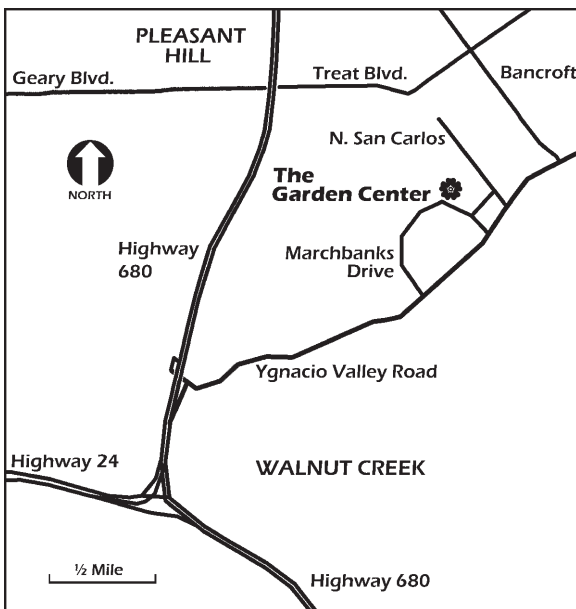
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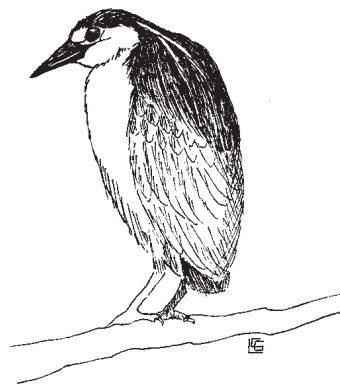
Member-at-Large: Jean Richmond

Quail Editor: Ellis Myers, 284-4103
215 Calle La Mesa
Moraga, CA 94556-1603
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Deadline for the December issue is November 9.



Driving directions: From Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Road to signal at Marchbanks Drive. Go left and follow Marchbanks to the Garden Center opposite the Greenery Restaurant. Turn left into parking lot. From Highway 680 south, take Treat Blvd. to Bancroft. Go right to Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right and go one block past signal at N. San Carlos Dr. (Heather Farm entrance). At Marchbanks Drive turn right. The Garden Center is located on the right in the second block.



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Crandall Lake • Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary

Quickies

Weekend Birding in California

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary

Head north on Highway 99 about 18 miles past Sacramento, cross the bridge over the Feather River, and, after two miles, turn right on Laurel Avenue. Past peach and walnut orchards, at road's end you will find the gate to Bobelaine Sanctuary. Climb up to the top of the levee, and you will gaze down on lovely Crandall Lake, named for Bob and Elaine Crandall, whose names combine to designate a hidden treasure.

The lower section of the Feather River—between Yuba City and Sacramento—is one of the “Important Bird Areas” of California as defined by Audubon California. This means that the area hosts ten or more sensitive species, or includes more than ten percent of California’s population. This criterion is met at the Feather River, which is one of only a few locations where Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been known

to nest. The area is also important for Bank Swallows, and several other riparian species such as Swainson’s Hawks and Yellow-breasted Chat.

California’s Department of Fish and Game administers the nearby Feather River Wildlife Area, but it is Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary that is most befitting and accessible to birders. Owned by the National Audubon Society, The sanctuary is managed by the Sacramento Audubon Society. It covers 430 acres of the riparian habitat once common throughout the Sacramento Valley.

There are several enticing trails adorned in the fall with wild rose, elderberry, and other delights. Calls of Western Scrubjays, the rattle of a Belted Kingfisher, and the tattoos of woodpeckers verify that this is a place for wildlife—humans may visit, but they are welcome only for a short while. A central trail leads across the preserve to a river overlook, where the Bear River joins the Feather, which then merges with the Sacramento, about ten miles downstream. Look for herons and egrets on the diminutive lake, and



shorebirds as well. We noted a Greater Yellowlegs foraging in the mud, accompanied by a number of Killdeer.

Spring at Bobelaine is a opportune time, with the mature Valley Oaks, sycamores and cottonwoods in fresh green leaves. Lush green grasses cover the ground, wild blackberry, poison oak and grape leaves adding their green to the vernal scene. Nesting boxes along the trails accommodate Western Bluebirds. These boxes are monitored, with the data sent to Don Yoder of the California Bluebird Recovery Program. In spring the sloughs would be full (they were not, in early

Continued on page 4